

Message Text

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TAGS: SENV, GW, US

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
MEASURES

REF: BONN 2702

1. WE CAN APPRECIATE FRG OFFICIALS CONFUSION OVER
VARIETY OF FIGURES WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN US RECENTLY
ON SUBJECT EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT AS RESULT ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION.

2. MOST RECENT STATISTICS, TAKEN FROM A SPECIAL REPORT
DONE FOR THE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (CEQ) IN
DECEMBER 1975 (APPARENTLY THE SOURCE FOR THE MERKUR
ARTICLE - REFTTEL, PARA 1.A.) SHOW: "TOTAL EMPLOY-
MENT RELATED TO POLLUTION CONTROL IN 1975 (IS) OVER ONE
MILLION." HERTER STATEMENT ABOUT 40,000 NEW JOBS RE-
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FERRED TO ESTIMATES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

(EPA) CONCERNING JOB CREATING POTENTIAL OF THE EPA GRANT PROGRAM FOR WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES. EPA ESTIMATES THAT EACH ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION CREATES "20,000 ON-SITE, YEAR LONG JOBS...ALONG WITH AN EQUAL NUMBER OF OFF-SITE JOBS IN INDUSTRIES SUPPLYING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIALS." (THUS, EACH

BILLION DOLLARS IN GRANTS CREATES APPROXIMATELY 40,000 NEW JOBS.) THERE IS, OBVIOUSLY, NO CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO SETS OF FIGURES, SINCE THEY REFER TO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FACETS OF THE ISSUE.

3. AS TO NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON EMPLOYMENT, LATEST EPA DATA SHOW APPROXIMATELY 15,700 JOBS LOST (1971 THRU 1975) IN PLANT CLOSINGS FOR WHICH POLLUTION CONTROL COSTS WERE ALLEGED TO BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR. (THE FIGURE CITED BY HERTER - 14,000 - WAS THE MOST UP TO DATE AT THE TIME OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING.)

4. WE ARE POUCHING TO EMBASSY MIN-COUNS CROWLEY A COPY OF THE CEQ REPORT AS WELL AS A COUPLE OF OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES. THESE MAY, IN EMBASSY'S DISCRETION, BE FORWARDED TO APPROPRIATE FRG OFFICIALS. EAGLEBURGER

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